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# PARISH-TO-PARISH NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR



**Mission:** Harness the power of **every** individual through education, training and volunteer service to make communities **safer, stronger** and **better prepared** to respond to the threats of **terrorism, crime, public health issues** and **disasters** of all kinds.

**CITIZEN CORPS** is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) **grassroots strategy** to bring together government and community **leaders** to involve **citizens** in all-hazards emergency **preparedness** and **resilience**. Its mission is to **harness** the power of **individuals** through **education, training** and **volunteer service** across a national network of local, **State** and **Tribal Citizen Corps Councils**.



Citizen Corps programs **build** on the **successful efforts** in place in **communities** around the country. Each local council **partners** with **organizations, volunteers** and **businesses** to **coordinate** volunteers and **professional first responders**.

## CITIZEN CORPS COUNCILS

The approximately **30 councils** in Louisiana promote and strengthen the five (5) core Citizen Corps programs. Local Citizen Corps Councils:

- Provide opportunities for **training** in first aid and emergency preparedness.
- Develop targeted education and training **outreach** for the community.
- Organize **special projects** and **community events**.
- Encourage **cooperation** among community leaders.
- Create opportunities for **all residents** to participate in preparedness and support first responders in the event of an emergency or a disaster.

## PLANNING

Local Citizen Corps Councils conduct **risk-driven, community-based preparedness planning**. The **participation** of government and **community leaders** and stakeholders in developing emergency plans is **critical** to



the success of a **comprehensive planning process**. Planning involving the **whole community** reflects an accurate **composite** of that **community** and establishes a **viable, fully integrated** and **coordinated plan** to execute when an incident occurs.

## PREPAREDNESS

A prepared public is an **essential** requirement for **resilient communities** and effective **emergency management**. Citizen Corps Councils and partners provide **local resources** to support education and training outreach tailored to individual community needs and to prepare the public with relevant risk planning. Councils deliver effective **preparedness, education** and **training** strategies through multiple community channels and target key populations such as youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly and others with special needs.

## PROGRAMS

Citizen Corps is comprised of **five (5)** key programs, each specifically designed to **support** existing emergency **structures** in the community and **provide opportunities** for citizens to aid the preparedness and resiliency of their communities. The programs are:

- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** 
- **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** 
- **Fire Corps** 
- **Neighborhood Watch** 
- **Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)** 

To find your local Citizen Corps Council, CERT, MRC, Fire Corps, Neighborhood Watch and VIPS programs, visit <https://www.citizencorps.fema.gov/cc/searchCouncil.do?submitByZip>.

Citizen Corps encourages citizens to **engage** in personal **preparedness + training + volunteer service** to help prepare **themselves** and their **communities** through **five (5)** core programs.



The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in **basic** disaster response **skills**. Using training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members **assist others** in their **neighborhood** or **workplace** following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. [www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams](http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams)



## VIPS

VIPS is a bridge between the public and law enforcement agencies. Its goal is to **enhance** the **capacity** of campus, local, State, Tribal and territorial **law enforcement** to utilize volunteers. The VIPS staff **shares information** and **resources** with law enforcement agencies that want to expand their programs, increase the use of volunteers in existing programs and help citizens learn about and become **involved** in VIPS programs like Police Reserves and Explorers.

[www.theiacp.org/VIPS](http://www.theiacp.org/VIPS)

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch is a **crime prevention** program that stresses **education** and **common sense**. It teaches citizens how to **help themselves** by **identifying** and **reporting** suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. Citizens have the **opportunity** to make their neighborhoods **safer** and **improve** their **quality of life**. [www.nnw.org](http://www.nnw.org)



## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

The **mission** of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to establish **teams** of local volunteer medical and public health professionals who **contribute** their **skills** and **expertise** throughout the year and during times of community need. This can include both **medical** and **non-medical support**.

[www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)



## FIRE CORPS

Fire Corps helps fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) departments build more capacity by **engaging** community **volunteers** to assist in a variety of **non-emergency** roles. By **expanding** the services a department can offer, and by enabling first responders to **focus** more on **training** and **response activities**, volunteers can make a significant difference in a community's resilience, preparedness and response capabilities.

[www.firecorps.org](http://www.firecorps.org)



For more information, visit the Louisiana Citizen Corps website at [www.gohsep.la.gov/citizencorps.aspx](http://www.gohsep.la.gov/citizencorps.aspx)